

## Meeting Minutes: Cultural and Ethnic Communities Leadership Council

Date: June 18, 2021

Minutes Prepared By: DHS Community Relations Staff

Location: WebEx

### Attendance

- **CECLC Members:** Cratè Darden, Foua Choua Khang, Brook Mallak, Kia Moua, Mariah Norwood, Adesola Oni, Lucas Petersen, Elizabeth Taylor-Schiro, Sheree Steele, Alana Wright, TaShonda Williamson
- **DHS Staff:** De Anna Conover, Diego Diaz-Rivero, Cate Dymit, Raie Gessesse, Dave Hoang, Nicole Juan, Dr. Karen McKinney, Verona Mitchell, Lydia Pfluger, Rosie Salem, Rebeca Sedarski, Christa Spielman, Caelyn Steele, Steven Wilson
- **Public Attendees:** Jean Lee

### Decisions Made

Review/approve today's agenda:

- Motion to approve today's agenda: Alana Wright
- Second: Elizabeth Taylor-Schiro

Review/approve March, April, May minutes:

- Motion to approve combined minutes: Alana Wright
- Second: Mariah Norwood
- The motion passed

### Agenda

- 1:00 Welcome and Land Acknowledgement
- 1:05 Introductions
- 1:10 Review and Approve Meeting Agenda and Minutes
- 1:15 Chair-elect Remarks
- 1:20 DHS Updates
- 2:00 Open Discussion

- 3:00 Adjourn Public Meeting

## Chair-elect Remarks

Council Chair-elect TaShonda Williamson welcomed members and attendees to the meeting and shared a land acknowledgement. TaShonda celebrated the recognition of Juneteenth as a federal holiday and reflected on how long it has taken for this to happen and the need for persistence to continue efforts to eliminate disparities.

## DHS Updates

### Juneteenth

Members collectively read a message from the DHS Operations Director of Equity and Inclusion, Verona Mitchell, about Juneteenth. The message recognized the holiday's history, significance, and meaning for communities today. DHS and participants shared information about Juneteenth celebrations in Minnesota.

### Legislative

If the legislature does not come to an agreement by June 30<sup>th</sup>, the state faces a government shutdown. DHS has been notifying staff and program participants of this and planning for a possible shutdown. However, conversations appear to be favorable. Community Relations will continue to keep the council updated.

### Community Relations

Interim Community Relations Director, De Anna Conover, welcomed Community Relations' Executive Pathways Interns for the summer, Raie Gessesse and Cate Dymit. Community Relations staff, Lydia Pfluger, shared that she will be transitioning to a new role at DHS. She is moving to the Child and Family Services Administration – Child Safety and Permanency Division. Lydia thanked members for opportunity to work with the council.

Nicole shared information about council appointments. CECLC appointments have been posted on the Secretary of State's (SOS) website. The SOS application is due June 30<sup>th</sup>. After applying on the SOS website, applicants will receive a supplemental application that is due July 7<sup>th</sup>. Eligible council members whose term is up need to reapply if they are interested in continuing another term. Please help Community Relations to spread the word about open appointments.

### DHS Equity Updates

Chief Equity Officer, Dr. Karen McKinney, introduced Caelyn Steele, the Office of Equity and Inclusions' Executive Pathways Intern. Dr. McKinney and her team are continuing to work on position descriptions for trainer positions.

## **Workgroup Updates**

### **Internal Policies and Operations Workgroup**

The workgroup met with Dr. McKinney to continue providing feedback on trainer position descriptions for the DHS Office of Equity and Inclusion. The workgroup has also begun thinking about training needs for new and continuing members for the upcoming fiscal year, and the workgroup plans to start having those discussions with council members soon.

### **Topics and Issues Workgroup**

The workgroup met with Devon Gilchrist from the African American Child Wellbeing Unit and discussed ways the council can support this area's work. Council member Foua Choua Khang also led a discussion on Community Health Workers (CHW) at the last meeting.

### **Legislative and Policy Committee**

The CECLC legislation is pending negotiations. There have been a few questions on the policy language which DHS is responding to. Community Relations staff will keep the committee members and the council at large updated.

## **Community Open Space**

Ramsey County is having a Juneteenth event from 1:00 – 5:00 pm at Allianz Field. There will be activities and a mobile vaccination site present.

The Equity and Justice Black Caucus will be having a conversation around intersectionality for PRIDE month next Wednesday.

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Mariah Norwood

Second: Adesola Oni

Meeting was adjourned at 1:45